

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt201

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

I want to refer to the governors language in the budget concerning sulfide mining and the requirement that the mine owners use proven technology before a mining permit is granted. ^{provide an agency to oversee this technology -} that he would provide an agency to oversee this technology - The governors language is vague and doesn't provide any standard, unlike the specific and scientifically based requirements contained in the mining moratorium bill, Senate Bill 3.

Governor Tommy Thompson's suggestion that ^{Sulfide Mining - specifically} the Crandon Mine ~~will be able to have~~ proven technology for an environmentally safe mine is in doubt and I have the evidence.

On November 15th, 1996, Douglas S. Cherkauser, an independent hydro-geologist from the U-WI-Milwaukee, submitted a review of the ground water flow modeling report given to the WDNR by the Crandon Mine Company. In his very technical report, he refutes almost every aspect of the Crandon report. Dr. Cherkauser states, and I quote, "My analysis convinces me that the CMC model seriously underestimates the impacts that the proposed mine will have on the ground water and surface water systems, largely because in a number of instances, unrealistically low hydraulic conductivity's has been used as input.

In another section he states, "There has been insufficient information provided anywhere in this report to access impacts to the wetlands. Nor has any such attempt been made yet".

Now I come from an area around Minocqua, a rather small town in the scheme of things, with a newspaper, the Lakeland Times, that listens to all voices. On Feb. 28th, I submitted a letter to the editor indicating that I had given a copy of the Cherkauser report to

Senator Alice Clausing at the mining moratorium meeting in Green Bay on Feb. 17th.

Lo and behold, one week later, George Meyer of the DNR was at the office of the Lakeland Times and requested an interview with that paper. He, of course, acknowledged that the CMC report was inadequate and that the DNR had questions of the CMC. So, the governors own politically motivated DNR finally fessed up that the Crandon Mine Company was offering inadequate data pertaining to the effects of the mine.

Because of this and the vague language of the governors suggestion, it is absolutely necessary to bypass the suggestion in the budget bill and support the current legislative proceedings of the senate bill No. 3, the mining moratorium bill. Any mention of sulfide mining should be deleted from this budget bill.

And the
redundant
after agency

Alice Clausing
PO Box 432
Stoughton, WI 54531

Douglas S. Cherkauer, P.G.
1740 Stoneway Court
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November 15, 1996

Mr. John Griffin, Project Director
Environmental Department
Sokaogon Chippewa Community
Rte. 1, Box 625
Crandon, WI 54520

Mr. Griffin:

I have completed my initial review of the revised version of the Groundwater Flow Modeling Study Report submitted to the WDNR by Crandon Mining. Following are my comments on it. The commentary is arranged sequentially to parallel the report itself.

Chapter 2 - Hydrogeologic Setting

1. The massive saprolite reappears on page 2-2. It was my impression that all sides had agreed to incorporate this material as part of Layer 4 (early WI till) and give it the same hydraulic properties of the EWT. From later sections of the report, it appears that the first step was done, but not the second. [More on this later.]

2. Within the model the beds of the streams have been given discrete K_s (page 2-5), although no measurements on this property have ever been conducted. As long as the K_v of the stream bed is larger than that of the model layer immediately underlying it, it will not effect flow. However, wherever Layer 1 (Late WI till) is absent, streams flow directly on Layer 2 (fine or coarse outwash), which has a higher K than the stream bed. In such areas, the lower K of the stream bed will control exchanges between the ground water and the stream. Under pre-mine conditions, there are no stresses to this exchange sufficient to provide a good calibrated value for stream-bed K . Thus when the model is run in predictive mode (when the mine stress is present), the unmeasured and only weakly calibrated stream-bed K will control the exchange. My concern is that the low values used in the model for stream-bed K will produce a bias toward underprediction of mine impact on streams. This is particularly a problem near the Mole Lake Reservation, because Swamp Creek is simulated as being directly in contact with Layer 2 there.

3. From the revised report, it's not clear whether earlier concerns expressed by reviewers about problems with the measurement of Bedrock K3 have been addressed in Table 2-3.

4. On page 2-4 the report asserts that geophysical studies show that the lakebed sediments are continuous. TDEM senses everything in a half-space (hemisphere) extending radially down and outward from the measurement location. By design, it integrates the signal it detects across that entire half-space. As used in this project, TDEM is unable to detect a "hole" in the sediments smaller in radius than the radius of the half-space sensed. If the instrument were exactly centered over a hole in the lakebed sediments of the same radius (or greater) as the sensing radius, then it would produce a 0 thickness reading. If it were at all displaced from the center of that hole, or if the hole's radius were less than the sensing radius, then the TDEM method would integrate some existing sediment thicknesses with the 0s of the hole, producing a non-0 reading. Hence, the TDEM is only capable of demonstrating that there are no discontinuities in the sediment larger than the sensing radius of the setup used. CMC argues that its spacing of TDEM sites (about 200 feet) was selected to provide full coverage of the lake beds (overlap between readings). It remains my contention that the survey conducted, therefore, cannot detect holes in the lakebed sediment smaller than at least 100 feet across. The sensitivity of the modeled predictions to such holes has to be tested, because their absence cannot be proven with the data provided. Such tests have not been conducted.

5. The report cites (page 2-6) the 16 day saprolite pumping test as "designed specifically for evaluating the hydraulic properties of the massive saprolite and the pre to early Wisconsinian till". To date, however, there has been no dialog between the company and the project's reviewers on this test. In my view, ~~it was seriously flawed and does not provide a good measure~~ of the hydraulic properties of either material or their interconnection. Observation points were aligned in too linear a fashion and were too sparsely distributed vertically to achieve the objectives sought in the test. They were not in position to detect or examine the effects of possible holes in the massive saprolite (such as near DM1-4). And the model of the test's results was unable to reproduce the shape of the observed drawdown curves, ~~leading me to suspect that there is more vertical leakage into the rock from above in the real system than in the model.~~

6. The discussion of the internal lakes on pages 2-9 and 2-10 refers to water budget analyses as one source of confirmation of the lakebed Ks used. In a letter dated July 5, 1996, to Chris Carlson of WDNR, I estimated that ~~these~~ errors inherent in the input terms to these budgets probably produce an uncertainty on the order of $\pm 30\%$ on the Ks resulting from them. This great uncertainty ~~should be incorporated in the range of lakebed Ks used.~~ It isn't.

Chapter 3 - Model Design

1. According to cross-sections AA' (Figure 3.3) and J'J' (Figure 3.17), lower Swamp Creek is in direct contact with model Layer 2. Because the streambed K used universally in the model (Table 3.3) is less than that of Layer 2, an artificial constraint has been placed on the exchange of water between Layer 2 and the stream. Again, this won't manifest itself as a problem under any of the pre-mine calibrations, because this area is not stressed. It will bias the model to underpredict impacts on the stream when the stress from mine pumpage is simulated.
2. For the near-field lakes, the lakebed sediments have been split into 2 parts, one half being used to represent lakebed conductance and the other half occupying Layer 1 beneath these lakes. I'm unable to determine whether Layer 1 beneath these lakes is given Kv of the lakebed sediments only or whether the K used is a combination of lakebed and LWT values. If the former, then the simulated K is lower than the real K of the system.
3. The far lakes and creeks are simulated in the model via the river package (page 3-14), which requires input of bed sediment K and thickness in order to calculate a conductance. Neither K nor thickness for these water bodies has been measured anywhere. The accuracy of this external boundary condition is thus questionable.
4. A range of Kv for stream beds of 0.1 to 10 has been used in the model (pages 3-15 and 16), while a value of 7.4 has been used for the coarse outwash. As mentioned earlier, I'm concerned that where streams flow directly on Layer 2 this will create an unproven and untested constraint on exchange between the stream and coarse outwash. This is a most significant shortcoming of the model from the Sokaogon Community's perspective, because lower Swamp Creek will be the location where this model bias is strongest.
5. The discussion of inclusion of wetlands in the flow model (pages 3-16 and 17) fails to point out that there are virtually no measurements of wetland conductances that are needed to accurately portray drainage and recharge Type 3 wetlands.
6. A minor point. There is an inconsistency between the text (page 3-13) and Table 3.3 on the initial Kh for the fine outwash.
7. In Table 3.3, the minimum Kv and initial model value of Kv of Layer 4 have both dropped by a factor of 2 from the first draft of the model report (in the EIR). No new data have been provided. The only change that has occurred is that WDNR has required that the massive saprolite be combined with the early WT till in Layer 4 and eliminated as a restrictive zone between Layers 4 and 5. WDNR also argued that the Ks of the massive saprolite and the EWT are about the same. The appearance of the K change suggests that CMC has continued to build into the model a restriction on flow between the glacial sediments and rock in the vicinity of the mine. In my earlier comments, I suggested that the company's interpretation of the saprolite

pumping test was underestimating the exchange of water between rock and the glacial sediments. This is where that apparent nonconservative bias is incorporated into the model.

8. Table 3.3 lists the range of lakebed Ks to be 0.00012 to 0.0065 ft/day. John Coleman's analysis with the spreadsheet model shows that the range is just as likely 0.006 to 0.015 ft/day. The model must be rerun with higher lakebed Ks in order to provide a reasonable estimate of the mine's impact on the interior lakes.

9. In Figure 3.26, why does the ACALC procedure produce the abrupt pinchout of Layer 1 at G41-C15C? Shouldn't the reduction in thickness be more gradual?

Chapter 5 - Results of Calibration

1. Table 5.1 shows that the calibrated model used different lakebed Ks for the nearfield and farfield lakes, 0.004 and 0.129 ft/day, respectively. Both types of lakes were formed by the same geologic processes. The 0.13 ft/day is about ten times the upper value that John Coleman arrived at as a reasonable high values for the nearfield lakes, a value that CMC dismissed perfunctorily earlier in this report. Yet there is no reason why the near and farfield lakes should differ. If 0.13 is valid for the farfield lakes, it should also be valid for the nearfield lakes.

2. Similarly, the same concern arises regarding the Ks for the seepage and discharge wetlands, where the discharge wetlands are given a K which is 100 times that of the seepage wetlands. Again, both sets of wetlands have the same geologic origin, so why would they differ by two orders of magnitude?

3. My own interpretation is that in each case above, the discharge surface water body requires a much higher K in the calibrated model than its recharge (seepage) equivalent. The direction of flow should have no effect on changing the K after the formation of the surface water body, so the Ks should be about the same. Rather, I suggest that this discrepancy indicates a problem with model calibration.

Ground water discharge is an extensive stress on the pre-mine modeled system, but ground water recharge from surface water bodies is not. According to Table 5.5, these are the fluxes expressed as percents of the total water budget:

	Discharge from gw	Recharge to gw
Wetlands	33.6%	? - can't separate
External streams & lakes	25.2	9.3%
Internal streams	15.6	2.2
Internal lakes	0.0	1.2
TOTAL	74.4 %	>12.7 %

The real system is stressed by the discharge, providing an adequate means for calibration. On the other hand, the seepage stress is too small to effect the model much under pre-mine conditions. The result is that the calibration of the model is not sensitive to the bed Ks of the seepage surface water bodies, and inclusion of erroneously small Ks in the model has developed. This will not effect the pre-mine model, but it will produce a serious underestimation bias on mine impacts on streams and lakes.

4. In Table 5.1, Kv of Layer 4 has dropped with the inclusion of the massive saprolite (from 0.16 to 0.10 ft/day). Once again, it's apparent that a different Kv was included for the saprolite.

3. Figure 5.9 can't be adequately assessed because we don't know what layer of the model it's in. It also doesn't show the residuals at the actual targets. Finally, the text (page 5-1) says Figure 5.9 is a comparison of water tables, but the figure caption calls the map a potentiometric surface. The map has equipotential lines crossing lakes, so it's definitely not a water table. But what exactly is it?

4. The text also asserts that there is an abrupt steepening of the hydraulic gradient near Swamp Creek on Figure 5.9. I see no such abrupt change, which is purported to indicate another low K zone. The gradual change of gradient more likely is the result of gradual thinning of the aquifer downflow.

5. The report suggests that the model underestimates the magnitude of vertical hydraulic gradients where it's observed (page 5-2), but provides no actual results. CMC attributes this to low vertical resolution in the model. I suspect that this phenomenon indicates that the model won't be good at predicting the response to a vertical stress. Vertical gradient is underestimated in the unstressed state because the effective Kv is too low. This will cause vertical fluxes in the stressed (post-mine) model to be too low.

6. CMC claims that the model matches head profiles under the internal lakes well (page 5-3), and says to compare Figures 2.35 and 5.12. I disagree. The modelled section never gets heads on the upflow side of the lake to exceed lake level. The real system has heads over 2 feet above the lake, while the model is never higher than 4 feet below. This difference also results in the model's inability to show ground-water inflow to Little Sand, as mentioned earlier.

In addition, the observed heads under the lake are between 1585 and 1586 feet, while the model generates 1582 to 1584. There is not enough water leaving Little Sand to reproduce the appropriate heads, because lakebed K is too low.

As pointed out, the two figures are not on exactly the same line. In fact, the position of Figure 5.12 is never given. That figure should be replaced with the modelled results along the same line as Figure 2.35.

6. Baseflow seepages to Lower Swamp Creek and Pickersel Creek both fall outside the target ranges. Does this indicate that stream bed K is too low or is local recharge too low?

7. An examination of Figure 5.13 reveals that the first transient calibration (glacial aquifer test) consistently overestimates drawdown in Layers 3 and 4. In Layer 1, the model correctly estimates drawdown near the well, but underestimates it away from the well. My inferences are that Layer 1 is modelled reasonably, but that Layer 3 doesn't get enough water in the model. It's likely that its VCONT connections with Layers 2 and 4 are too low. Layer 4 is also short of water, suggesting that its vertical connections with Layers 3 and 5 are too restricted.

8. The report claims that the drought calibration of the model reproduces water level records very well (page 5-5). Examination of Figures 5.15A and B, however, suggests this is too generous. Of 12 sites shown, 5 are modelled well. At sites DMB-4, DMB-6, DMB-21, DMI-2U and EX10AU, the model doesn't reproduce the start of the rebound after the drought very well. In addition, it does a very poor job of reproducing the response of DMA-48 and DMB-10. Interestingly, these 2 sites are the farthest west among those used to test the response of the model to the greatest pre-mine stress available, the drought. The model's inability to respond well west of the mine site raises great doubts as to its ability to predict the impacts of the even greater mine stress in that area. For the Sokaogon Community, this shortcoming couples with the questionable stream and lakebed Ks in their region of the model to suggest that the model cannot accurately predict direct impacts to Rice or Mole Lake or to Swamp Creek's discharge.

9. Figures 5.16 to 5.19 also indicate a problem with the drought data set against which calibration has been made. Each year, the model predicts a low lake level at a time when no real observations have been made. Hence, there is no way to determine whether the model's prediction of the maximum system to the drought stress during a year is correct. This makes me leery of the model's reliability for prediction of the impacts of the mine's stress.

10. For the saprolite pumping test, the model greatly overpredicts large drawdowns and underpredicts small ones (Figure 5.20). This test itself has a variety of problems with its operation. I don't think that it provides much of a test of the model, and the model fails the test anyway, with drawdown errors approaching 100%.

11. For the bedrock pumping test (Figures 5.21 and 5.22), the model tends to underpredict both near and far drawdowns in rock. Because we aren't shown where the observation wells are (horizontally or vertically), I can't evaluate this test's success.

Chapter 6 - Sensitivity

1. Table 6.1 reveals a number of problems:

- a. At steady state, model heads are insensitive to Kv because there is no vertical stress in the tested system.

b. Lake stages are sensitive to lakebed Kv, but only to an increase. This indicates to me that the lakebed K used is already at or below the lower end of the range of the effective Kv

c. Discharge to Swamp and Hemlock Creeks is sensitive to the Kv of Layers 1 and 2. However, these properties aren't well known and calibration targets are sparse near them, leading to serious doubt about the model's ability to predict impact to these streams.

2. I have a number of problems with the discussion on pages 6-3 and 6-4 of the lakes' responses to transient sensitivity testing:

a. First, it's very difficult to assess this aspect of the sensitivity discussion because several crucial pieces of information aren't provided. Information is provided only on lake level responses. How do nearby heads respond? What happens to fluxes? We aren't told what outfall adjustments were made, just that they were done. Run 70E is the crux of Figure 6.31 to 6.34, but there is no mention as to what conditions were simulated.

b. Even without that information, it appears that the report's conclusions are questionable. Figure 6.31 clearly shows that increasing the lakebed K of Little Sand Lake by a factor of 3 produces virtually no change in lake level response; the higher K (which is then within the range suggested by John Coleman) produces just as good a match. The same holds true for the higher K on Duck Lake (Figure 6.32). In Skunk Lake (Figure 6.34), the increase in K exaggerates the extreme lake levels, making the fit appear worse. However, there are no actual level measurements at the times of the extremes, so we don't know what the fit should look like. Finally, from Figure 6.33 it does appear that the response of Deep Hole Lake's levels to an increase of lakebed K is bad. But why would increasing lakebed K cause water levels in a lake receiving no ground water inflow to go up? It strikes me that this is the result of the undefined modifications of the outfall relations.

c. Why does the report concentrate only on the WORST example of the response to higher Ks and largely ignore the rest? Little Sand is by far the largest lake and one where a large impact could be expected. Increasing lakebed K there produces no significant change in lake levels during the major stress against which the model is tested. Many other indicators suggest that the K used for the lakebed in the model is too low, so the model needs to be run with a significantly higher lakebed K.

3. The discussion provided in the report of lakebed Ks is equally unconvincing. It tersely dismisses the work of John Coleman and others who have questioned the company's efforts to justify very low Ks. Figure 6.37 is presented as evidence that doubling lakebed K in the spreadsheet model prevents matching observed lake levels. Yet as Mr. Coleman pointed out, this result is controlled entirely by where you start the model, an arbitrary decision. In this case, if it were started at about 1591.45 with the higher K, it would match the other 3 data points very well.

Other factors which control the spreadsheet model's response are the rainfall input used and the outfall equation and height assumed for each lake. The report doesn't provide this information, so it's impossible to judge whether the K of 0.0004 is better than anything else.

In an earlier comment on the report's comparison of head profiles through Little Sand Lake, I argued that the modelled section's heads were all too low, indicative of insufficient water flowing from the lake to the aquifer. Now Figure 6.31 shows that increasing lakebed K by 3x will not affect the model's ability to reproduce lake levels. At the same time, however, it will provide additional water to the aquifer under the lake. Since heads and lake levels are the only viable targets around the lake, and since increasing lakebed K will improve one and not affect the other, why hasn't that been done?

Chapter 7 - Model Predictions

1. Why are constant head cells places in Layer 7 as part of the simulation of the mine stress?

2. I have serious reservations about the best engineering judgement results (pages 7-3 to 7-5), largely because the BEJ conditions include a series of nonconservative conditions, which include, among others:

- a. Streambed Ks which are lower than those in Layer 2 when the streams contact that layer.
 - b. Continued inclusion of low vertical Ks for the massive saproline, restricting exchange between the glacial sediments and rock.
 - c. Lakebed conductances which are simulated as excessively low because the base K built into them is too low and no attempt has been made to simulate discontinuities in the beds.
 - d. The possibility that Layer 1 beneath the internal lakes has been given the K value of the lakebed, rather than that of the late Wisconsinian till.
 - e. Vertical connections between Layers 2, 3, 4 and 5 that appear to be too restrictive.
 - f. The bed conductances at least some of the wetlands which recharge the ground water have arbitrarily been set considerably lower than other wetlands.
- Each of these conditions by itself will tend to restrict the movement of water toward the mine, thus minimizing the impact of mine pumpage during predictive simulations. Taken together, these conditions provide a highly conservative model, one which will underestimate many of the most important mine impacts.

3. The result of the combined problems in item 2 above is obvious when looking at the projected impacts of the mine on the internal lakes. For Little Sand Lake, the BEJ model predicts a maximum drawdown of lake level of 0.07 feet, which is only 1% of the impact predicted by the 1986 Environmental Impact Statement. Similarly, the impacts on the other are also tremendously

reduced from 1986. Duck Lake has dropped to 5% of the 1986 impact, Deep Hole to 1% and Skunk to 28%. These values are just not realistic.

4. There is insufficient information provided anywhere in this report to assess impacts to wetlands. Nor has any such attempt been made yet.

8. Relevance of the CMC modeling report to the Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Given all my reservations about the BEJ model, I believe that even the practical worst case model seriously underestimates the mine's impacts. Even so, the PWC model, when combined with low flow (drought) conditions (Table 7.12), predicts the following impacts on streamflow

Swamp Ck @ SH55	-11.9% of streamflow
Swamp Ck @ SG3	-10.9%
Hemlock @SG6B	-10 %
Hoffman Ck & Spr	-35 %
Lower 12-9 Ck	-27.5%
Pickerei Ck	-81 %
Martin Springs	-9.2%

" These predicted changes in Swamp Creek, which are in my estimation a lower limit, are intolerable to the Sokaogon Community. They will have a major impact on their water supply and the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the tribe's water resources. "

In addition, we cannot assess from the CMC report what the direct impact of the mine will be on ground water flow to either Rice or Mole Lake. Furthermore, the report has made no attempt to predict the impacts on the wetlands within the zone of the mine's influence. These are also major players in the overall hydrologic system within which the Sokaogon Community lives and upon which it is dependent.

My analysis convinces me that the CMC model seriously underestimates the impacts that the proposed mine will have on ground water and surface water systems, largely because in a number of instances unrealistically low hydraulic conductivities have been used as input. These low values tend to occur near the mine area and to isolate the mine from the rest of the hydrogeologic system. The pre-mine conditions used for calibration of the model don't provide enough stress for the model to be sensitive to these values, so the specific values used aren't really calibrated. In each case, CMC has selected a value near the low end of the available spectrum to submit as its "calibrated" value. The result is an underestimation of mine impacts when the model is run in predictive mode.

Specifically, the nonconservative biases built into the model include:

1. Use of a lower K for the massive saprolite when it's lumped with the early Wisconsin till.
2. Simulation of streambeds directly in contact with Layer 2 as having the same low K_v as everywhere else
3. Use of much smaller K_v s in nearfield lakebeds (0.004 ft/day) than in farfield lakes (0.13 ft/day).
4. Assumption of total continuity of lake beds.
5. Use of much smaller K_v in seepage wetlands (0.0032 ft/day) than in discharge wetlands (0.32 ft/day).
6. The possibility that the K_v of the lakebeds has replaced the K_v of the layer directly under the nearfield lakes
7. The apparent use of values of VCONT between layers 2, 3, 4 and 5 which are too small (Comment 7, Chapter 5).

Every one of these conditions applied individually will reduce the predicted impacts. In concert, they will act additively to underestimate the mine's impacts on surface water bodies.

// WDNr and the Corps of Engineers will need to rectify these shortcomings with their own modeling. Since no streambed, wetland bed or farfield lakebed K_s have been measured (and the nearfield lakebed K_s remain in dispute), either direct measurements of or conservative assumptions about these parameters will have to be made before reliable impact predictions can be made. If the latter, then these assumptions should be made:

1. Give the massive saprolite the same K_s as the early Wisconsin till.
2. Give all streambeds a K_v of 1.0 or that of the immediately underlying layer, whichever is higher.
3. Make all lakebed K_s 0.13 ft/day, the farfield value.
4. Conduct at least a sensitivity run in which a 50 to 100 foot diameter discontinuity in the lakebed sediments is simulated.
5. Give all the wetland beds a K_v of 0.32 ft/day, the discharge wetland value.
6. Make sure that the layer underneath each lake has the K_s appropriate to that layer, not those of the lakebed.
7. Carefully recalibrate the vertical connection between layers using the transient tests

In fact, the ~~entire model~~ will need to be recalibrated when these changes are inserted. Before this process is underway, the targets associated with surface water bodies need to be refined. Better control is needed on the fluxes to the simulated streams. At the nearfield lakes, targets should include, in addition to lake stage, heads in nearby piezometers as well as the configuration of equipotentials on cross-sections through the lakes. Ideally, fluxes to or from the lakes should also be targets. In addition, the lake stage records somehow need to be expanded to accurately determine the annual stage minima, so that the model's predictions of these values can be tested.

The recalibrated model will also need to reproduce transient conditions west of the mine site more accurately.

Once a more reasonable calibration has been developed, then the model can be used to produce a refinement of the "Best Engineering Judgement". Then too, a less biased rendition of the "Practical Worst Case" impacts can be developed. Once all these steps are completed, then the Sokaogon Community can have greater confidence that the revised model is producing a realistic estimate of the likely impacts associated with mine development.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Cherkauer
Douglas S. Cherkauer

cc: Chas Carlson
Jim Kachelski
Randy Hunt
Ken Bradbury
Mark Meyer
David Bauman
Dan Corza
John Coleman

Joint Committee on Finance
April 10, 1997
HWMc

Subject - Governor's budget with particular reference to state funding for University of Wisconsin System -

Welcome to members of the Joint Committee on Finance to our area and the UWMC campus. I want to thank Senator Russ Decker for making your visit to this campus a reality.

My name is Mary Clare Freeman. I served on the Budget-Action Network for the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As I will not be at the meeting, I hope you'll accept written remarks.

Wisconsin - the very name conjures an image of progressive attitudes in government, education, social programs and environment.

The University System is recognized internationally and nationally with the flagships in Madison providing the major focus. It has been deemed by some that being a part of this system is such a feather in a professor's cap that a salary that is not competitive would compensate enough to draw and keep esteemed teachers and researchers. It worked for awhile but that grace period is long over. State government doesn't seem to recognize that the fiscal policies of past years are eroding an

exceptional resource for our state.

Is the University System flawed?
Of course not. Is it a valuable
resource to the citizens of Wisconsin?
We emphatic, yes. The Board of Regents
establish policies to govern the
system and plans for the future
of public higher education. Taxpayers
are asked to help support a
great University System for those
prepared to take advantage of it.

This valuable resource can be
crippled - but it would be a University
system but it wouldn't be a
great one.

I would ask each member of
this committee to support the
University of Wisconsin system with
increased funding as suggested in
the proposed state budget.

Thank you for considering my
remarks.

RESTORING THE BUYING POWER OF WISCONSIN HIGHWAY FEES

Problem:

Since the early 1990s, Wisconsin drivers have actually been paying less each year in highway fees.

Improved fuel efficiency and inflation cause a continuing decline in the per mile cost to drive.

Today, the average user is paying 37% less than in 1971 to drive a mile of Wisconsin roads. If this trend continues, average user fees in 1999 will reach their lowest level in 25 years.

What It Costs to Drive:

The current average costs of owning and operating a car are 34.3 cents per mile, which includes fuel, maintenance, insurance, depreciation, financing, and all federal and state highway fees.

Of this amount, Wisconsin highway fees are only 1.4 cents per mile, or only 4% of total automobile costs.

Recommendation:

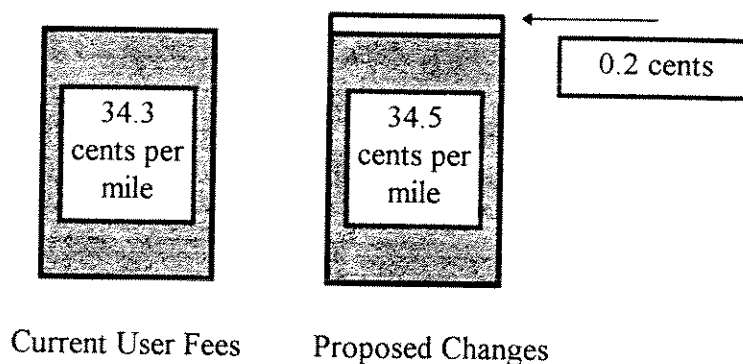
Consider TDA's proposals of raising the state gas tax by 3 cents per gallon, and registration fees by \$10, and removing the consumption factor from the fuel tax indexing formula.

This proposal would restore Wisconsin's user fee cost per mile to mid-1980s levels, but still less than the early 1980s and far less than in most of the 1970s.

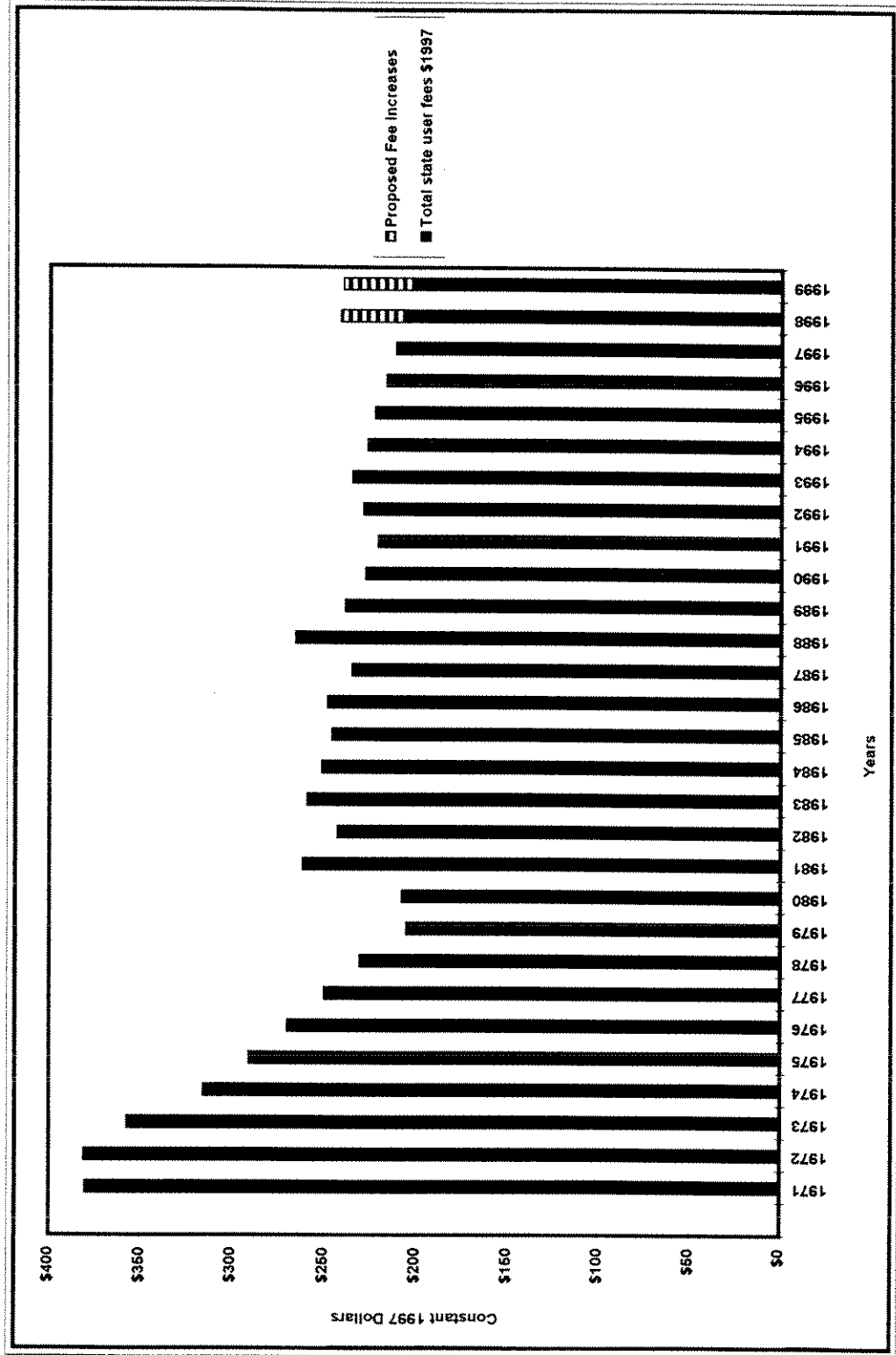
The proposed adjustments would cost the average household close to \$37 a year, or about \$3 a month, about the cost of a video rental. This is a remarkably small price to pay to continue to have quality roads and other transportation services in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin highway user costs would grow to 1.6 cents per mile - only an additional 0.2 cents per mile. The total cost to drive will grow by less than 1%.

Effect on Total Driving Costs



AVERAGE ANNUAL WISCONSIN HIGHWAY FEES PER HOUSEHOLD



Assumes 3 cent increase in fuel tax 10/1/97,
\$10 registration fee increase 10/1/97,
single-factor indexing as of 4/1/98

Based on 15,100 miles driven annually
Average fuel economy

North Central Health Care Facilities

Marathon Health Care Center

1100 Lake View Drive Wausau, WI 54403-6799

715/848-4600

PETER DESANTIS

4/10/97

Members of Joint Finance:

Regarding the Governor's Budget, I would like to make a number of proposals.

1. In regard to Mental Health, the Department of Health and Family Services has always been conservative in capturing Federal M.A. funds. Therefore, I recommend that the Administrative Code be changed to allow psychotherapy services that are provided in locations other than just outpatient clinic.

As an example, there are many elderly who could benefit from brief therapy, especially at a time of grief. It would be much more effective to be able to provide this service at their home or at the office of the local Commission on Aging. Right now, in order to do this, it would be necessary that the Commission on Aging be licensed as an outpatient clinic.

2. That the Administrative Code be changed to allow coverage for community based "psychosocial" services in the community, and that the services be provided by professional and paraprofessional staff. Combined with targeted case management (a Medicaid covered service currently), this would allow a kind of "CSP lite" service for clients who need more than outpatient counseling but less than a full-blown CSP. For children, this would allow for service for others than those who have been preauthorized through HealthCheck.
3. Medicaid coverage for case consultation services provided by mental health professionals regarding MA clients. For example, assist nursing homes, especially private and non-profit to develop strategies to deal with behaviorally problematic residents. This could facilitate a discharge to a less restrictive setting, or prevent an inappropriate 51 commitment to an inpatient hospital.

Assist teachers within the schools on how to best handle children with emotional problems and help physicians in primary health care settings to effectively deal with persons who have a mental illness.

How to Pay for This

If the state again feels that they could not provide the necessary match, then counties could use county match and community aids. Such a system exists for community support and crisis intervention.

4. In the budget the Department of Health and Family Services has requested approval to pilot a number of behavioral health care (Mental Health and AODA) and develop performance standards. These pilots would begin January 1999. However, no funding was provided. There is belief that some community option funds would not be used and these funds could be used. However, that is very uncertain. I would recommend that

unused I.M.D. funds be allowed to fund these pilots. Total costs would be approximately \$200,000. Again, Medicaid federal funds could be used to pay 50% of the staffing costs, leaving a balance of \$100,000.

5. In regard to the Community Option Program, many counties have difficulty meeting the requirements of significant proportion. As a result, funds are not used. At the same time, people are on waiting lists because they do not fit into the right box.

There are two alternatives: 1) let each county's COP Committee determine the needs; 2) allow the county to move the funds from one category where there is no need to another category which has a waiting list.

6. The State's Mental Health Institutions are requesting to expand their role to provide various outpatient services. This should be allowed only if it gives them the authority to provide services under contract to counties. They should not be allowed to operate outpatient clinics at Mendota or Winnebago County, as these services already exist in those areas.
7. In the Methods of Implementation for Medicaid/Nursing Home payment rates, the current language related to the distribution of Intergovernmental Transfer Funds (ITP) was written by the "Department" at the onset of the Federal Financial Participation (FFP) program. As far as I know it had only limited input, at best.

The current language distributes ITP funds based on a calculation that includes the median direct care loss of all nursing homes owned by local units of government. If a nursing homes' direct care loss is greater than the median loss of all nursing homes who qualify for the program, ITP reimbursement has been 100% up to the median loss level and then a reduced % thereafter depending on funds available. If a home's loss is less than the median loss then they receive 100% of their direct care loss reimbursed. The issue that must be addressed is that the calculation of the median loss of all eligible nursing homes does not take into consideration the type of facility (SNF vs ICF), acuity levels of patients served and the number of beds licensed and operated by the nursing home. The current formula would allow a nursing home, licensed for 40 beds but incurring a loss of \$50.00 per patient day, to have all of its' direct care loss reimbursed because its' total loss is less than the median loss of all facilities, while another facility, that has five times as many beds, with many more patients with high activity levels, and having a loss of only \$20.00 per patient day, would not have all of its direct care loss covered by ITP because its' total loss is greater than the median loss of all facilities.

Last year approximately \$1,800,000 of ITP reimbursement shifted from facilities whose direct care loss exceeded the median loss of all eligible facilities to facilities whose loss was less than the median loss of all eligible facilities.

Since all losses of eligible facilities are included in ITP, it would be more equitable for all of the losses of each facility to be recognized in a consistent manner, distributing available ITP funds based on a formula that gives weight to the number of licensed and operated beds.

(See attached proposed rule change.)

SPECIAL ALLOWANCES FOR FACILITIES OPERATED BY LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT

In recognition of the unique nature of facilities operated by local units of government, local government-operated facilities experiencing Title XIX direct care deficits are eligible to apply for supplemental funding. Total supplementary funding under this allowance shall not exceed the amount in Section C. based on a prospective settlement of estimated SFY 1997 losses sustained by facilities for providing services to Medicaid residents and certified by a local unit of government. The amount of funding awarded to a facility shall be based on the facility's individual percentage of the total Title XIX deficits of all eligible facilities.

- A. In order to participate in the prospective supplement the facility must have on file with the Department and or submit the following materials:
1. A cost report as required in Section 1.170.
 2. An affidavit signed by the executive officer of the local unit of government or his or her designee, certifying the amount of county expenditures eligible for FFP under 42 C.F.R., Section 433.51(b), for the purpose of meeting the cost of nursing home care and services.
 3. A prospective supplemental award application form.
- B. Based upon the cost report submitted under A.1, the Department will determine the following for each rate calculated during the 1996-97 rate year:
1. The projected expenses for the nursing facility as determined under Section 3.732 of the Methods plus the property allowance as determined under Section 3.530 of the Methods.
 2. The current Methods rate as determined under Section 3.740 of the Methods plus the property allowance as determined under Section 3.530 of the Methods.
 3. The hold harmless rate under Section 3.760, if applicable, plus the property allowance under Section 3.530 of the Methods.
 4. The projected Title XIX Direct Care Operating Deficit (DCOD).
 5. The projected Title XIX Overall Operating Deficit (OAOB), including property expense and allowance.
 6. The imputed county or local expenditure for the period 7/1/96 through 6/30/97.
 7. Issue a report to the facility, listing all of the amounts B1. through 5. The facilities will have 14 calendar days to respond to the Department. The final award will be based on this report. The Department may terminate adjustments to the amounts in the report following the response period.

C. The maximum supplement is the lesser of the following:

1. The OAOB under B5.
2. The amount imputed under B6.

D. The basis for allocating the prospective supplement is determined as follows:

1. If the total maximum supplement under C. for all eligible facilities is less than the amount in Section G., the award will be the amount determined under C. for each facility.
2. If the total maximum supplement under C. for all eligible facilities is greater than the amount in Section G., and the total DCOD under B4. is less than the amount in Section G., the award for each facility will be the sum of:

- a. The lesser of the DCOD under B4. and the OAOB under B5., plus
- b. Its prorata portion of the funds not allocated under D2.a. These funds will be allocated based on the OAOB less the DCOD.

3. If the total maximum supplement under C. for all eligible facilities is greater than the amount in Section G. and the total DCOD under B4. is greater than the amount in Section G., the award for each facility will be based upon the DCOD only and will be determined as follows:

- a. ~~The lesser of the DCOD under B4. and the OAOB under B5. will be determined. Its prorata portion of the total funds available based on the facility's DCOD compared to the DCOD of all eligible facilities.~~

- b. ~~(1) If the facility's deficit under D3.a is less than or equal to the mean deficit for eligible facilities, the eligible deficit is:~~

~~a) The mean deficit for all eligible applicants, plus~~

~~b) 50% of the difference between the facility's deficit under D3.a and the mean deficit.~~

- c. The facility's Direct Care supplement equals the ratio of its eligible deficit under D3.b ^a to the total of the eligible deficits for all applicants multiplied by the available funding identified in Section G.

~~E. If the amounts determined under D2. or D3. exceed the maximum determined under G., the supplement will be limited to the maximum under G. The available funds not allocated as a result of applying the maximums will be allocated to the remaining eligible facilities.~~

F. Supplemental funds for the prospective settlement awarded to the facility may be made in lump sum payment(s).

- G. Total supplemental funding shall not exceed \$37,100,000 plus the amount in excess of \$79,500,000 of federal matching funds received based on a prospective settlement of estimated losses sustained by facilities for providing services to Medicaid residents and certified by a local unit government. The Department shall reduce the supplemental funding to the local units of government if it determines that the aggregate payments to nursing homes under these Methods would exceed the Medicare upper limit.

Wold Driving School



Adults and Students

Service Available

- 30 Hours Classroom
- 6 Hours Behind The Wheel
- 6 Hours Observation

**Cecil Wold,
OWNER**

**Suite 101
808 N. Third St.
Wausau • 54401
(715) 845-8001**



Wisconsin Professionals Driving School Owners, Inc.
808 North 3rd Street, Suite 102
Wausau, WI 54403

April 10, 1997

Secretary Charles Thompson
WI Department of Transportation
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Thompson:

The Wisconsin Professional Driving Owners Group, Inc. has reviewed the driver education provisions contained in the Governor's 1997-99 Biannual Budget. The initial reaction from some of our members was that these changes are too important to be contained in a complex budget bill, especially since we were not aware these changes were being considered.

However, our members support the general thrust of the provisions. We specifically support the idea of enhanced driver education as envisioned by DOT staff. Further, we support the intention of encouraging additional time for behind-the-wheel experience.

We are leery, however, of the option for parents to be the ones to "accompany" and "certify" that their young person has actually completed the additional required hours. Parents should be taking a more active role in their children's education, but we are not sure how this can actually be measured and verified.

We believe that in order to insure that students are actually gaining additional valuable experience and knowledge in order to avoid the state road test, there must be real additional time spent behind-the-wheel with a state licensed instructor. Most of our members know that if they spent more than the current 6 hours with their students, they would become even safer drivers.

We therefore strongly recommend that your budget provisions be amended to require that if this optional method for receiving a license is to be used, the student be required to spend an additional 6 hours behind-the-wheel with a licensed state instructor.

In addition, requiring that other hours be done with a parent or other older adult is okay, but to rely on this solely would be placing the motoring public and new licensed driver at grave risk.

We also believe that if this is an option that the Department wants to establish for drivers under 18 years of age, it should also apply for adults seeking a license.

With these changes to the Class D vehicle waiver, our Association believes that this option will help to improve the skills of the state's new drivers. Enclosed is the additional language that we believe is necessary to accomplish this.

Our association is also willing to assist the department in any way that we can in the drafting of the Administrative Rules that are needed to implement these new budget provisions.

Please do not hesitate to let us know how we might work together to improve and implement these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cecil Wold".

Cecil Wold
President

Enclosure

CC: Gerald Bown
Joint Committee on Finance Members

CLASS D VEHICLE TEST WAIVER
AMENDMENT

On page 1633, line 206, after the word "operation." insert:

"During a minimum of 6 hours of time under this section, the student must be accompanied by a state licensed instructor . This Class D vehicle waiver applies to all individuals required to successfully pass a Class D road test prior to being granted a license by the department."

Testimony of Sarah Hull, Executive Director
Bridge Community Health Clinic for the
Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
Thursday, April 10, 1997
UW Center- Marathon Campus
Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing

Hello. My name is Sarah Hull and I testify today as a Board Member of the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association. I am also the Executive Director of the Bridge Community Health Clinic - a federally qualified health center - here in Wausau. I thank you for taking the time to travel to Wausau to hear testimony. I will make my comments brief and I have supplied the page staff with copies of my testimony.

The Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association represents the interests of Wisconsin's medically underserved communities. Membership includes community health centers that operate clinic sites in 35 counties, both rural and urban, throughout the state. Health centers are private, non-profit community based clinics that are obligated by mission, and required by federal law, to care for all persons regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Most of our clinics' patients are low income, uninsured or Medicaid recipients. All of the clinics WPHCA represents have waiting lists of uninsured people needing a medical home. The demand and need is large.

I would like to talk with you about a state budget provision affecting the WisconCare program. As you may know, WisconCare is a program that provides limited coverage for health care services for unemployed and under or uninsured people in 17 counties. The program is funded at a level of \$1.5 million per year, and is paid for entirely through an assessment on hospitals. The Governor's budget lapses \$686,900 of WisconCare program funds to the general

fund. Given the number of uninsured in the state, there should be no surplus or unspent revenue in the WisconCare program.

While we would like to see restoration of the lapsed money to provide care for the uninsured, we believe realistically that it may be a difficult thing to do. As such we are asking that the WisconCare program be transformed to ensure that all the money intended for health care services for the uninsured is fully used for that purpose each and every year.

We propose restructuring WisconCare - turning it into a competitive grant program where primary care clinics statewide could compete for this funding. Funds would be distributed as a competitive grant based on the number of uninsured people a clinic proposes to serve. Non-profit, community based clinics, including but not limited to ~~hospital-based clinics~~, rural health clinics, and community health centers would be eligible to compete for this funding.

Such a grant program would ensure that potentially eligible people are efficiently identified and served. It would eliminate the need for the state to support administration, recipient enrollment, and claims processing. You have a letter from WPHCA in your office with additional information on our proposal.

Let me be clear in stating that we do not request increasing the hospital assessment that pays for WisconCare, nor will we support lowering the assessment. We support continuation of WisconCare and improving its efficiency.

As the executive director of a health center here in Wausau, I understand the costs of uncompensated care to both patients and providers. The state has shown a willingness to address uncompensated care through continuation of WisconCare in select counties. But individuals who live in some counties - like right here in Marathon County - cannot access the WisconCare program. It's time to open up the program for communities like ours to have the ability to put together a proposal to compete for some of these dollars. As you know, the problem of uninsured people seeking care at health facilities is not limited to seventeen counties, and part of the solution to care for these people should not be limited either.

This initiative, combined with the Governor's program for increased access to health care services for women and children, are real steps towards providing access to care for thousands of state residents who cannot afford or do not qualify for health insurance.

I would be happy to try and answer any questions you might have and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Senators and Representatives of the Joint Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing us the time to share our feelings with you regarding the W-2 proposals and the impact it will have on the Wausau community.

I am Father Woody Pace and this is Win Spencer and we are here to represent the Church of St Anne, *Wausau*

We are especially concerned about what the consequences of the federal welfare law will have on the legal immigrants who have been in the US for more than five years and will now be denied SSI and Food Stamp benefits because they are not citizens. Our parish has a membership of 87 Hmong families. We share the concerns of the 22 families who will experience loss of income when their SSI or Food Stamps are cut.

Our interest is not only our parish members, but all of the refugees and immigrants who are either elderly or disabled, or striving for self-sufficiency in this country. We are encouraged by the number who have already become citizens, and those who have become gainfully employed or have started their own business. However, there are many who are not citizens because they are not yet ready to take the exam, and there will be many who never will become citizens because of low language skills and inability for

Page 3 - Church of St Anne

we refer to SSI and Food Stamps we are speaking of federal programs that you have no jurisdiction over. Still the State does have recourse to aid programs. We suggest the following:

1. Continue the availability of Medical Assistance to immigrants and refugees.
2. Enact State programs to provide benefits for food, shelter and clothing to immigrants who are no longer eligible to federal assistance.
3. Restore the reduction to Community Aids, the State program benefiting the poor.
4. Redefine grants for Community Service Jobs and Transitional Placement as wages, so the people in those jobs may become eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Our parish has been an active participant in the Wausau 2000 program, a volunteer group of citizens that is trying to address these needs when they no longer qualify and their financial source is discontinued. We are willing to do our share to help these refugees and other welfare recipients, but this will be a very large financial impact and our resources are limited.

If Medical Assistance can be continued it would help the many families who will have to face the income loss. They in no way have the means to take on the health care expenses for elderly or disabled family members.

Please keep these people in mind when you present the budget for passage. These refugees are in this country because our government brought them here for their safety. Because immigration is a much

Page 4 - Church of St Anne

larger issue for the federal government, and our hope to solve their dilemma at that level will take more time, we believe that Wisconsin citizens have an obligation through our state government to see that these people who were willing to sacrifice for us during the Vietnam War are not thrown aside at their time of need.

Financial Public Hearing
Thursday, April 10, 1997

Submitted to: Financial Budget Board
Submitted by: Jim Hansen
k-8 Principal
Laona School District
Laona, WI 54541

Support Request: Funding for "SAGE" Program
"Student Achievement Guarantee in Education"

In April 1996 the Laona School District signed a general assurance with the DPI to go into agreement in good faith with the 5 year program titled SAGE. SAGE is an agreement between the state and my school district where as the student/teacher ratio is reduced to 15:1 or less. This agreement was for 5 years so adequate educational data could be collected. Upon entering into agreement the Laona School District hired a kindergarten and first grade teacher. The expansion of the SAGE program to grades 2 and 3rd in the 1997-1999 biennium will enable the Laona School District to stay within the 15:1 student/teacher ratio.

The problem which has occurred is that our governor has suggested funding for the SAGE program might be frozen at the present funding level. If this would occur the Laona School District would be unable to continue in the SAGE program. It is because of the support from the state that the Laona School District was able to enter into agreement. Without the financial support the Laona School District would be unable to continue. I'm asking the financial board to please help me to address this concern.

I guarantee you the dollars spent will show only success and improvement in the educational system for years to come. I have already seen how fantastic the SAGE Program is doing. Every aspect of education is being enhanced. SAGE is the best public educational program I've been a part of and I proudly say that I've spent my life time in public education.

April 8th, 1997

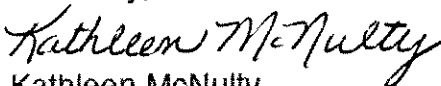
To whom it may concern,

I have been in the Laona School District for the past nine years. For six years I have been teaching Kindergarten and have enjoyed it a great deal. In the past I have had anywhere from 25 to 32 children all day every day. This year has been wonderful with the low student teacher ratio. At this point I can only mention positive aspects for the program called SAGE. It has been a spectacular year with only 12 children to work with. I would like to mention the positive things I have found while participating in SAGE:

- (1) The noise level is very low which enables the children to listen and hear.
 - (2) There appears to be less sickness among the children.
 - (3) We as a small group can do more hands-on projects.
 - (4) The children are able to socialize and know their classmates on a more personal basis.
 - (5) More time allotted for individual help.
 - (6) Children are more attentive during instructional time.
 - (7) Less children make less distractions which increases more teaching and learning time.
 - (8) Less discipline problems means more quality time with students.
 - (9) More space for children to play and explore.
 - (10) Easier to evaluate students and detect strengths and weaknesses.
- I know there are many other positive sides to the SAGE program, but am unable to list all of them.

I hope the program continues and the budget to run SAGE is not frozen. It would be a great injustice to the children to start a wonderful program and then take away from it so quickly. Please visit the sites with the SAGE programs and spend a day to really see all the advantages it provides for the children. I would like to Thank you in advance for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen McNulty
PO Box 57 Forest Avenue
Laona, WI 54541
Phone: (715)674-3801

April 6, 1997

To: Joint Finance Committee

Ref: SAGE Program Budget

For the past five years I have been able to experience first-hand the difference we can make when teaching in small classes as opposed to larger ones. When I was hired by the Laona School District, my job was to help the teachers of two large classes - a first grade with 32 students and a fifth grade with 35. I taught half of the first grade reading and math and half of the fifth grade math, language, and science. For the remainder of the day, these two classes were each in rooms with the entire class served by one teacher, no aides. Although not an ideal arrangement, I have continued teaching in this situation for five years, so now my original first grade class is in fifth grade. The interesting thing about following this class through several grades is that I have been able to see how they learn and behave as a class when there are only 12-18 of them compared to when they are all together. Every teacher that I have "teamed" with through the years has found the same thing to be true: when this class is together as a large group we find that their listening skills are poor, they are disorderly and rude to each other, and the curriculum is more difficult to cover. However, when split in half (and we have split them into different combinations each year) they are much better students and very enjoyable to work with. Some of the students who tend to be shy or creative are much more likely to succeed in the small group setting.

Because of this experience, I was thrilled when Laona was able to become a part of the SAGE program this year. The thirty students this year that are split between two first grades have a lot of catching up to do following a somewhat unproductive kindergarten experience. This class not only has a large number, but it has a handful of extremely active students, several coming from dysfunctional families. The structure that we can provide in school with smaller classes is going to greatly increase their chance of experiencing success. It would be a mistake to take these two first grade classes and funnel them into one second grade room. The original commitment that the SAGE program made to add on a second grade teacher in the 1997-98 school year and a third grade teacher in 1998-99 is an absolute necessity for getting these students started on a successful school career.

Please consider the children when making your final budget decisions.

Yours in education,

Laura Bobbe

ROBINSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LAONA, WISCONSIN

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS PAST SCHOOL YEAR, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED OUR FIRST YEAR IN A WONDERFUL PROGRAM CALLED SAGE. OUR KINDGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE BEGAN A VERY EXCITING SCHOOL YEAR ON A VERY POSITIVE NOTE WITH TWO TEACHERS TO EACH GRADE K-1. THROUGH THIS PROGRAM WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO MUCH MORE ONE ON ONE IN ALL AREAS OF LEARNING WITH THE CHILDREN. IT NOT ONLY HAS HELPED IN THE ACADEMIC AREA OF READING AND MATH, BUT IT HAS CREATED A MUCH MORE RELAXED CLASSROOM CLIMATE. I CAN PUT THE CHILDREN INTO SMALLER GROUPS, AND STILL BE AWARE OF WHAT EVERYONE IS DOING DAILY!! THEY WORK IN PARTNERS DAILY, WHICH HAS BUILT FRIENDSHIPS THAT WERE NOT POSSIBLE BEFORE. WE HAVE ALL HAD MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOND IN OUR SMALLER GROUPS.

IT WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THESE STUDENTS ON INTO SECOND AND THIRD GRADE WITH THIS PROGRAM, TO SEE THEIR PROGRESS AND THE BENEFITS IT HAS PROVIDED. TO DISCONTINUE SUCH A WONDERFUL PROGRAM WOULD BE A HUGE MISTAKE!

PLEASE THINK BEFORE CUTTING FUNDING FOR A SECOND YEAR OF SAGE. DON'T ALLOW THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN IT FOR A YEAR TO BE DROPPED! WHAT WOULD WE HAVE GAINED?? OUR CHILDREN DESERVE THE BEST. LET'S CONTINUE A PROGRAM THAT WE KNOW HAS WORKED!

SINCERELY,
MRS. KOCHENDERFER
FIRST GRADE TEACHER
LAONA, WIS.

Observation Summary
for
Mr. Hansen
by
Tina Strong
1st Grade Clinical Placement with Mrs. Kochenderfer
3/20/97

I am sharing my thoughts and observations of my forty hour clinical since I am nearing the end of my placement. Forty hours in a classroom is not enough time to absorb the complete routine of the classroom. I participated in the morning schedule of the first grade class generally on a Monday or Thursday. I believe by participating on two different days has given me more insight into the morning routines, however, a full day placement would have offered so much more insight and a better understanding of the curriculum.

I have observed the POPS Program on Mondays. I have not had the opportunity to observe such a program in any other school. I think it is a wonderful way to start the week. Children are exposed to a positive environment the first minutes of a Monday morning, setting the tone for the remainder of the week. Children exit the room smiling because they have been excepted for who they are and have been rewarded for any positive act they displayed during the last week. This encourages the children to act positively again so they will be recognized the following Monday as well.

Mrs. Kochenderfer has opened up her classroom to me. She has been very encouraging and positive about my appearance in the classroom. She has acknowledge me as another professional and respected my ideas. Mrs. Kochenderfer has always kept me up to date on what the children were doing and what they would be doing for the week so that I would not be lost the next time I came. She has shared teaching resources and other materials necessary to make this clinical experience a successful experience for myself. She has shared constructive feedback that will only assist me in being a more effective teacher.

The smaller class size has many benefits. The teacher is able to understand and be aware of the complete child. Such as family situations, health problems, where and with whom the child is living, and any special needs a child may have. Special needs applies to all children. We are all special and we all learn differently. Being aware of these differences allows the teacher to be more effective in teaching. Mrs. Kochenderfer is very aware of the 'whole child' in all of her children. She has shared some of her concerns about some children due to matters outside of the classroom and school. This also has made me more aware of the whole child and affected some of my instructional techniques as well.

The smaller class size allows more success for more children. Children have more opportunities to respond and participate in a small group compared to the normal thirty children in one class with one teacher and no support staff. Success allows the child to establish positive self-esteem at a young age. The child is more likely to be successful in later years of schooling if he/she has established a positive self-concept. That child will always be able to draw on the positive experiences of a small classroom where he/she was valued contrasted with being one of thirty and often gone unnoticed.

The smaller class size allows for more in-depth learning versus surface learning. In larger class sizes the curriculum must be met whether all children understand the concept or not. That is not to say that the curriculum is not being met in smaller classes but the teacher has more time for one on one with students. Mrs. Kochenderfer has the time to cover a subject area until she feels as though all children are competent in that area while progressing forward with new content areas. Children must be competent in the subject matter covered in the primary grades if they are to be successful in the intermediate grades.

The smaller class size allows for the children to be active in all areas of the classroom. The children participate in classroom duties, student of the day, they help each other in many ways establishing a positive rapport with each other and the teacher. The smaller classroom almost takes on the image of a family with a positive role model to follow. It has been proven and documented that children learn best in small groups and a positive environment that meets the needs of the 'whole' child.

The uniqueness of the SAGE Program is that the children, for the most part, learn in small groups with large group instruction as well. Children know what it is like to participate in a group of thirty but they also know the benefits of the small group instruction. Children can bring what they have learned in the small group and apply it to the large group. Children in the SAGE Program are being exposed to the life experiences they will face once they complete school. Upon completion of school you are one of many and the larger group resembles this fact. It is providing a foundation that the children will be able to build and grow on to be successful.